

LIBRARY

STOCKSBRIDGE

Urban District Council



INTERIM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1947.

DEEPCAR:

J. F. HINCHLIFFE & SONS, THE WHARNCLIFFE PRESS,

1948.

Stocksbridge Urban District Council

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1947.

Members of the Health Committee.

Councillor O. Inman (Chairman).

- „ J. W. Whitehead, J.P. (Chairman of the Council).
- „ H. Bradbury (Vice-Chairman of the Council).
- „ J. W. Allott.
- „ J. B. Hemsley.
- „ J. P. Holling.
- „ A. Rains.
- „ P. Schofield.
- „ A. Sweeney.
- „ Mrs. M. West.
- „ E. Wragg.

Staff of the Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health.

W. M. ROBERTSHAW, M.B. (Edin.)

(Resigned 30/6/47).

J. MAIN RUSSELL, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.), B.Hy., D.P.H. (Dunelm)

(Commenced duties 1/7/47).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

W. FERGUSON, M.B., Ch.B. (Glas.), D.P.H. (Leeds)

(Commenced duties 18/8/47).

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

DOUGLAS E. ROBINSON, M.S.I.A., Cert. M. & F.I.

Stocksbridge Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health's Interim Annual Report for 1947.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE STOCKSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Interim Annual Report upon the Health Services of the Stocksbridge Urban District Council for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

The Ministry of Health, in a circular dated 31st December, 1947, stated that the Report for 1947 should follow upon similar lines to those of previous years, retaining all relevant data in the event of a more comprehensive report at a later date. At the same time the Ministry of Health asked for precise and detailed information concerning such things as Water Supplies, Drainage and Sewerage, and personal observations on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937. Precise information about Tuberculosis, Venereal Diseases, Diphtheria Immunisation and Poliomyelitis was also asked for, but except for Poliomyelitis, your Authority is not responsible for these matters and, therefore, no details are made in this report.

This report is prepared according to information received from my predecessor for the first half of the year, and those statistics collected by me during the second half of the year. You will recall that I took up my duties as your Medical Officer of Health on 1st July, 1947, when the Scheme for the Divisional

Administration of the Preventive Medical Services of the West Riding County Council became operative in the district. This scheme for the decentralization of certain Health Services (particularly those for Child Health matters) under the administration of a Divisional Medical Officer, came into being in the West Riding in 1947, and there are 31 such divisions. Each Division is made up of groups of County District Councils, the Divisional Medical Officer, acting as Medical Officer of Health for each respective authority. This Division, No. 22, is made up of the Urban Districts of Hoyland Nether, Penistone and Stocksbridge, and the Rural Districts of Penistone and Wortley.

The Vital Statistics for the district are set out in tabular form. Again no "Comparability Factor" is available. The variety and magnitude of local population movements of recent years, and the uneven incidence of civilian War deaths, have combined to frustrate the attempt to secure such a 'factor' i.e. to be able to apply a 'factor' which would translate the statistics of one area into a comparable figure so that comparisons with other areas could be made.

In brief, the Vital Statistics for the Stocksbridge Urban District are not unfavourable compared with the rest of the Country. The Birth Rate has increased, but the Death Rate has also increased. The Still-Birth Rate has fallen, but the Infantile Mortality Rate is too high at 27 per 1,000 live births. However, we are dealing with small numbers and one must be reluctant to criticise statistics obtained from such numbers.

I wish to acknowledge with grateful thanks the very valuable help and support received from my deputy, Dr. W. Ferguson. Without his unfailing loyalty I could not have carried out my duties so smoothly during recent months, since the coming into being of the Divisional Administration.

I also wish to take this opportunity of placing on record my grateful thanks for the courtesy and generous help afforded to me by the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, the Clerk and other officials, and in particular the loyalty, help and kindness of my Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Douglas E. Robinson.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. MAIN RUSSELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

DISTRICT STATISTICS IN BRIEF.

The Stocksbridge Urban District covers an area of 4,631 acres. The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1946 was 2,907. The rateable value of the district is £55,747 while the product of a penny rate is £195 as at 31st March, 1948.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population. The Registrar General has given his estimation of the population as 9,907. This is an increase of 112 as compared with the 1946 figure.

Births. There were 224 live births registered during 1947 in the district. Of these 115 were males and 109 females. This is an increase of 37 over the 1946 figures. There were 6 illegitimate births, 1 male and 5 females.

Still-Births. During the year there were 4 still-births, 3 males and 1 female. This compares with a figure of 5 for 1946. There was 1 illegitimate still-birth, a male.

Deaths. 118 deaths were attributed to the district during 1947. This is an increase of 24 as compared with the 1946 figure.

I set out below tables of Live Birth Rates, Still-Birth Rates and Crude Death Rates with those rates of other parts of the Country. From these tables it can be seen how the district compares with the Country generally.

RATES PER 1,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.

Year.	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Admini- strative County.	Stocksbridge U.D.
LIVE BIRTHS.					
1947	20.5	23.3	22.2	22.7	22.6
1946	19.1	22.2	21.3	21.5	19.1
1945	16.1	19.1	19.2	15.7	19.6
1944	17.6	20.3	20.9	15.0	20.7
1943	16.5	18.6	19.4	15.8	17.0
STILL-BIRTHS.					
1947	0.50	0.62	0.54	0.49	0.40
1946	0.53	0.67	0.59	0.54	0.51
1945	0.46	0.58	0.53	0.40	*
1944	0.50	0.64	0.61	0.42	*
1943	0.51	0.63	0.61	0.45	*
*Figures not available.					
DEATHS (Crude Death Rate).					
1947	12.0	13.0	11.9	12.8	11.9
1946	11.5	12.7	11.7	12.7	9.6
1945	11.4	13.5	12.3	13.8	9.4
1944	11.6	13.7	12.4	15.7	9.5
1943	12.1	14.2	12.7	15.0	12.8

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
INFECTIVE DISEASES.			
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	3	1	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	1
Syphilitic Diseases	2	—	2
CANCER.			
Stomach and dueodenum	1	2	3
Breast	—	1	1
All other sites	11	3	14
CIRCULATORY SYSTEM.			
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	6	5	11
Heart Disease	20	16	36
Other circulatory Diseases	2	2	4
RESPIRATORY SYSTEM.			
Bronchitis	3	—	3
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	2	3
DIGESTIVE SYSTEM.			
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	1	—	1
Other digestive diseases	1	—	1
GENITO-URINARY SYSTEM.			
Nephritis	1	3	4
INFANTS.			
Prematurity	1	—	1
Congenital Malformation	3	—	3
VIOLENCE.			
Road Traffic Accidents	8	3	11
Other Violent Causes	2	2	4
ALL OTHER CAUSES	3	5	8

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS.

Under 1 year	6
1 to 2 years	—
2 to 5 „	1
5 to 15 „	1
15 to 25 years	—
25 to 45 „	12
45 to 65 „	42
65 years and over	56
TOTAL	118

Infantile Mortality.—There were 6 deaths of children under 1 year of age (5 males and 1 female), equivalent to a rate of 27 per 1,000 live births. This is precisely the same number as last year, and the rate is considerably less than that for England and Wales.

DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR.
RATES PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.

Year.	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Admini- strative County.	Stocksbridge U.D.
1947	41	47	36	37	27
1946	43	45	37	41	32
1945	46	54	43	53	5
1944	46	52	44	61	40
1943	49	58	46	58	55

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF INFANT DEATHS.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 wk.	1—2 wks.	2—3 wks.	3—4 wks.	Total under 4 wks.	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—9 mths.	9—12 mths.	Total under 1 yr.
Prematurity ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital and Wasting Diseases	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	2
Gastro-Intestinal Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other Diseases ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
TOTAL ...	4	—	—	1	5	—	—	—	1	6
1946 ...	3	—	—	—	3	—	2	1	—	6

Maternal Mortality. There were no maternal deaths during 1947.

Epidemic Diseases. There were no deaths in the Epidemic Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) Group during the year.

Inquests. Inquests were held on 18 occasions, and in 3 cases the cause of death was certified by the Coroner after Post Mortem Examination without inquest.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

During the year a total of 116 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified. They were distributed as follows :—

Measles	...	...	26
Whooping Cough	...	...	39
Scarlet Fever	...	...	34
Pneumonia	...	...	13
Poliomyelitis	...	...	4
			116

Attack Rate of Commoner Infectious Diseases.

Disease.		England and Wales.		148 Smaller Towns.		Stocksbridge U.D.
Scarlet Fever	...	1.37	...	1.37	...	3.43
Diphtheria	...	0.13	...	0.14	...	0.00
Typhoid Fever	...	0.01	...	0.00	...	0.00
Pneumonia	...	0.79	...	0.68	...	1.31
Measles	...	9.41	...	9.58	...	2.62
Whooping Cough	...	2.22	...	2.02	...	3.93

DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES BY AGE GROUPS.

Age Group.	Measles.	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever.	Pneumonia.	Poliomyelitis.
Under 1 year	...	2	-	...	-
1--2 years	...	7	2	-	-
2--3 "	...	1	2	1	1
3--4 "	...	7	3	-	1
4--5 "	...	6	2	2	-
5--10 "	...	15	17	1	2
10--15 "	...	-	4	-	-
15--25 "	...	1	1	-	-
25--35 "	...	-	2	1	-
35--45 "	...	-	1	-	-
45--65 "	...	-	-	6	-
Over 65 years	...	-	-	2	-
TOTALS	26	39	34	13	4

Scarlet Fever. During the year the incidence of this disease showed a marked increase. 34 cases were notified as compared with only 7 in 1946. However, the disease was mild in character and at no time was it confined to any particular locality in the district.

Whooping Cough. There were 39 cases reported as compared with only 4 in 1946. These figures were chiefly the result of a mild epidemic in the Stocksbridge area during the latter part of the year.

Measles. 26 cases were notified as compared with 7 in 1946. The incidence was confined to the early part of the year, the last quarter being remarkably free from Measles.

One wonders, however, if ALL cases of Whooping Cough, and Measles for that matter, do come to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health. So many times we hear that Measles has invaded a home and it is considered the inevitable thing—'all children will get it' idea. Again, how many times do we hear a "whoop" as we go about our daily tasks? It is time we rid ourselves of this type of thinking. Parents must be made to realise that children with Whooping Cough and Measles are seriously ILL, and besides being infectious are passing on infection. If parents will only consult a Doctor instead of a neighbour, then the extent of epidemics may be reduced

Pneumonia. There were 13 cases notified as against 18 last year. There were also three deaths.

Diphtheria. No case of Diphtheria was notified during the year. Immunisation was carried out in the same manner as in previous years. Facilities for immunisation are offered through the County Council's scheme, the inoculations being carried out either by General Practitioners or by Officers of the County Health Department. During the year a total of 102 children were immunised. This figure is not as high as it should be and we must use every propaganda effort to overcome the indifference, laziness and prejudices of parents. That no case was reported during the year is no excuse for parents failing to realise the necessity for protective treatment. It is wrong to let past records engender complacency.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis. There were four cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis. They were all admitted to Hospital. One case was found to be abortive ; one case was discharged with no residual paralysis ; the other two cases had marked degrees of paralysis and arrangements were made for prolonged care and re-education.

This disease—more commonly known by the unfortunate name of Infantile Paralysis—became epidemic throughout the Country during the summer of 1947. Many theories have been advanced as to the cause of this epidemic, but none was scientifically sound. There were two forms of the disease, Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis and Acute Polioencephalitis. Not every case attacked suffered the distressing after effects consequent upon damage to the Central Nervous System. Some made a complete recovery—others suffered various degrees of resulting paralysis.

This epidemic has stimulated interest in the disease, both from a clinical and epidemiological point of view, and research work is now going on in the hope that this disease can be tackled as other infectious diseases have been tackled. Certain it is, however, that great advances have been made in the technique of early diagnosis of suspected cases both Clinically and by the aid of the Laboratory. Intensive study of the early treatment methods has also been carried out and the remedial treatment for the cases affected—more in the province of the Orthopædic Specialist—has been greatly intensified.

It was apparent that arrangements should be made to deal with this outbreak, and in this district all the recommendations of the Ministry of Health were carried into effect. Early hospitalisation was assured—the County Council met the cost of an Orthopædic Specialist's consultation at an early stage of the illness, and the County Council provided remedial and rehabilitation treatment at Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield. The latter treatment was provided free of cost to all children of School age as authorised under Section 48 (3) of the Education Act, 1944. All other cases were subject to Section 184 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and costs were recoverable. However, in view of the divergence of opinion as to whether or not the resulting effects were actually an infectious disease, and so the responsibility of the Health authority, the County Council later agreed to waive the implications of this Section of the Act and did not seek recovery of costs.

One case of Poliomyelitis was admitted to Pinderfields Isolation Hospital, Wakefield, where all the necessary treatment is available for paralysed cases. This patient is still receiving Hospital treatment.

Tuberculosis.—There were 13 new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year. Of these 10 were Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases and 3 Non-Pulmonary cases. The table below shows the age and sex distribution of the cases notified:—

AGE GROUP.	NEW CASES.					
	RESPIRATORY.			NON-RESPIRATORY.		
	M.	F.		M.	F.	
0—1 year	-	-	...	-	-
1—5 years	...	-	1	...	1	1
5—15 „	...	1	-	...	1	-
15—25 „	...	3	1	...	-	-
25—35 „	...	1	-	...	-	-
35—45 „	...	-	-	...	-	-
45—65 „	...	2	-	..	-	-
Over 65 years	...	-	1	...	-	-
TOTALS	...	7	3	...	2	1

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis),

Infestations. During the year 4 cases of Scabies were brought to my notice. Treatment was carried out at Sheffield, the cost being borne by the West Riding County Council.

I have made it a rule that in the event of one or more persons in one household becoming infested, all members of the household go for treatment. I also arrange for all clothing to be removed for steam disinfection, and in every case complete eradication of the infestation in the house has been the result.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospitals—INFECTIOUS DISEASES. Cases of Infectious Disease were admitted to the Allen Croft Isolation Hospital until July, 1947. This Hospital was then closed and arrangements were made for cases to be admitted to the Isolation Hospital, Grenoside. The more severe types of Infectious Disease, however, were admitted to the Lodge Moor Isolation Hospital, Sheffield.

MATERNITY. Arrangements were made by the West Riding County Council for admission to the Hallamshire Maternity Home and other County Maternity Homes and Hospitals.

Laboratory Facilities. All necessary facilities for bacteriological laboratory work are available at the Wakefield Laboratory of the Medical Research Council.

Ambulance Facilities. Arrangements were made with the Sheffield Central Ambulance Services for cases of sickness. All street and road accidents are dealt with by the Police.

For cases of Infectious Disease, the Ambulances of the various Hospitals were used.

Clinics. An Infant Welfare Centre is established at Mozart House, Deepcar, and this appears to adequately cover the needs of the area. An Ante-Natal Clinic is also held here, as well as Minor Ailment Clinics.

Venereal Disease. Treatment is available at centres in Barnsley and Sheffield, particulars of which are given below :—

Address.	Days and Hours of Attendance.	
	Men.	Women.
Barnsley, Queen's Road	Mon., 6—8 p.m.	Mon., 2.30—4.30 p.m.
	Thurs., 6—8.30 p.m.	Thurs., 2.30—6 p.m.
Sheffield (Jessop Hospital for Women)	—	Tues., 4—6 p.m.
	—	Thurs., 4—6 p.m.
	—	Sat., 11a.m.—12.30 p.m.
Royal Hospital	Tues., 6 p.m.	Thurs., 11 a.m.
	Thurs., 6 p.m.	Fri., 6 p.m.
Royal Infirmary	Tues., 5—7 p.m.	Tues., 2—4 p.m.
	Wed., 5—8 p.m.	—
	Fri., 6—8 p.m.	—

Tuberculosis. The whole of the area is served by the Dispensary at Stocksbridge which is held every Monday afternoon.

Mortuary. The only Mortuary in the District is at the Town Hall and is available for the whole of the area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

(Prepared by Mr. D. E. Robinson).

Nuisances.

Nuisances, etc., found in 1947.

Blocked Drains	21
Blocked or defective sink wastes ...	23
Blocked or defective W.C.'s ...	14
Defective Dust Bins	52
Defective eaves gutters and fall pipes	26
Defective cooking ranges	3
Dampness through various causes	42
Miscellaneous	23
<hr/>	
Total needing abatement	204
Abated	200
<hr/>	
Outstanding	4

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The whole of the district is sewered with the exception of about 220 outlying farms and cottages. Certain portions of the trunk valley sewer have insufficient capacity.

The whole of the sewers discharge to the works at Deepcar which are inadequate. It has previously been reported that Messrs. Wilcox, Raikes and Marshall, of Birmingham, have been asked to advise upon the Sewerage System and the Sewage Disposal Works. The Council are awaiting this report.

Closest Accomodation.

At the end of the year there were 152 privies and 3,349 water closets. From 1920 to 1939, 774 privies were converted to water closets, but during and since the war it has not been possible to proceed with this work owing to labour difficulties. There are a number of privies which can be brought into the sewerage system and the Council hope that the time when this can be done is near.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

In three instances the Council employ a farmer to clear the ashpits belonging to the two or three cottages in his farm group, and farmers are generally responsible for cleaning their own refuse. 2494 Dust Bins, 29 ashpits, and 135 privies of the midden type are cleaned by direct labour. One "Faun" type refuse collector with driver and five loaders is employed full time clearing dust bins, and one driver and one or two men are employed about half time with an ordinary lorry to deal with privies,

ashpits and some more remote dust bins. Dust bins are emptied fortnightly and privies every four to six weeks. Since the war years it has been impossible to maintain a staff sufficient to carry out the work effectively. The Council are considering the purchase of two new side loading collectors.

DISPOSAL. The refuse is disposed of by tipping and the one tip in use is at Pot House, where a stream was culverted to allow the valley to be filled. An extension of the culvert is now needed to allow the tipping to be properly finished and the Council have acquired land for this purpose. Tipping space will thus be provided for a further four or five years. The Council are also proposing to tip up part of the Woodroyd Quarry with selected refuse, the main reason being to provide support for the Quarry Cliff and to make provision for widening.

Salvage.

The salvage collected during 1947 was the lowest in quantity since the commencement during the war. The sales were as follows:—

	Weight.				Value.		
	T.	c.	qrs.	...	£	s.	d.
Mixed Waste and Strawboard ...	11	1	3	...	70	13	8
Newsprint ...	1	0	1	...	10	17	8
Rags ...	0	2	2	...	1	13	6
Bones ...	0	0	3	...	0	4	4
Kitchen Waste ...	3	8	0	...	5	2	0
String ...	0	2	0	...	0	8	0
					<hr/>		
					£88	19	2

Food Supply.

MILK. There are 33 Registered Cowkeepers in the district who keep an average of about 300 milk cows in 48 cowsheds. The gradual work of structural improvement was interrupted during the war years, but the cowsheds on one farm providing for 18 cows in milk were improved and brought up to the County Council's standard for graded milk. One licence is in force in respect of a Pasteurising Plant, and one in respect of Accredited Milk. 14 Wholesalers and 19 Retailers are registered. Premises were found to be generally well kept, though some structural improvement is still needed. Samples are taken by the West Riding County Council.

OTHER FOODS. No animals have been slaughtered for sale in the Stocksbridge District during and since rationing was introduced. The following unsound foods were surrendered and destroyed.

Bacon ...	18½ lbs.	Tinned Milk ...	62 lbs. 6 oz.
Tinned Meats	18¼ lbs.	Tinned Fish ...	13¾ lbs.
Butter ...	37 lbs.	Tinned Fruit ...	11 lbs. 6 oz.
Cheese ...	5¾ lbs.	Tinned Vegetables	80½ lbs.
Sugar ...	¾ lbs.	Butter Beans ...	60 lbs.
Tea ...	5¾ lbs.	Dried Egg ...	5 oz.
Preserves	6 lbs.	Wet Fish ...	2 stones Herrings
		Dry Fish	3½ stones Smoked Cod
		Mussels ...	... 1 cwt.

Ice Cream.

Six premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, but in no case was Ice Cream manufactured on the premises.

Water Supply.

The Sheffield Corporation provide and distribute water in the Stocksbridge area. Of the 2907 houses in the district, 2685 have a public supply.

Rodent Control.

The survey of the district for evidence of rodent infestation was commenced during the year and showed the treatment of the Sewage Works, Pot House Tip and the block treatment of the West End area to be necessary. The areas of infestation were treated by the methods recommended by the Ministry of Food which proved successful. The survey of the district was not completed at the end of the year.

Housing.

The housing requirements of the district were estimated about the middle of 1947 and these figures showed that 608 families were in need of a new home. This figure included 294 families living in lodgings who made a housing application. There would seem to be no early hope of meeting this need, and many sub-standard houses will of necessity remain in occupation beyond their useful life.

The Council have decided to close two houses as soon as new houses are ready for the occupants, and following informal action, essential repairs have been carried out as shown under the heading "Nuisances, etc." The Council also decided in respect of 16 houses to take such action as would result in a modified scheme of improvement being put forward by the owners.

Seven houses built by private enterprise were occupied during the year.

The Contracts for 80 houses on the Spink Hall Estate are making poor progress due mainly to the extreme shortage of labour, but due also to the difficulty experienced in obtaining delivery of radiators and fittings for central heating. No houses were ready for occupation at the close of the year.

Infestation.

Complaints of infestation by cockroaches were received in nine instances, and advice and assistance with treatment was given. One group of four houses was very badly infested, but the premises were finally cleared.

New Buildings and Development.

PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL.

	Approved.	Disapproved.	Total.
New Houses	2	-	2
Conversion of House to Flats ...	-	1	1
Garages	22	1	23
Garages and Workshops	1	2	3
Garden Sheds, Implement Stores, Porches, etc	11	-	11
Sanitary Conveniences	3	1	4
Pig Stys	2	-	2
Schools Canteen	1	-	1
Works Canteens and Mess Rooms ...	3	-	3
Offices and Works Extension ...	6	-	6
Quarry Extension	1	-	1
Sales Shops	3	-	3
Alteration to Club Premises ...	-	1	1
	55	6	61

